MCC OFFICIALS ARE SUBPENAED

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DA Initiates Inquiry Into Commission Charges

District Attorney Jim Garrison initiated an inquiry into Metropolitan Crime Commission charges of organized crime Tuesday by having Orleans Parish Grand Jury subpenas issued for 16 top MCC officials, including Aaron M. Kohn, managing director.

In a statement, Garrison denied the crime commission charges, which he said were made through a recent Life magazine article, but said the grand jury is the proper body for an investigation.

Charging that the article was unfair to New Orleans and the whole state, he said:

"The city of New Orleans has been pictured by inference as a city of mobster corruption, as a capital city of the criminal em-

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KOHN SUBPENA

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pire of the Mafia. In my considered judgment, this picture is not only completely untrue, but a great disservice has been done to the State of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans."

The matter merits a thorough investigation due to the nationwide publicity, the DA said.

"In spite of the fact that this matter has been gone into again and again, and it has always developed that Mr. Kohn has no real evidence in support of his charges, I think that the matter should be approached objectively, and a complete inquiry should be made into his new charges," said Garrison.

The district attorney said he has asked the jury to look into every possible area where there might be systematic violations of the law or where public officials may be in collusion with mobsters or racketeers.

Garrison added that he will ask the jury to call every person mentioned in the Life article, himself and any member of his staff, and the author, Sandy Smith, and all other reporters or writers connected with the story.

Also included in Garrison's statement was a challenge to Kohn. "Either organized crime is rampant here, as the MCC periodically infers, or it is under control. Let us settle this question once and for all. If organized crime is found to be flourishing, then I will resign as district attorney and the MCC can recommend to the city of New Orleans the district attorney who can see the widespread syndicate operations as clearly as Mr. Kohn.

"If, on the other hand, it is found that Mr. Kohn's charges —which are now receiving national publicity — are untrue, then he should resign so that we have an end to false charges. . ."

Deputies of Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr. served the subpenas on Kohn and the following members of the crime commission:

C. Alvin Bertel Jr., Philip L. Frank Sr., Robert D. Hess, M. Hepburn Many, William I. Monagham, H. Eustis Reily, Eli W. Tullis, E. C. Upton Jr., James W. Mills Jr., William C. Pennick, C. Allen Favrot, Warren K. Watters, Joseph W. Simon Jr., C. C. Clifton Jr., and Everett M. Scranton.

Kohn declined to comment on the matter Tuesday afternoon, saying he would wait for a joint statement by the MCC's executive committee. All of those subpenaed are presently members of the executive committee or have been in the past, Kohn said.